

The Condition of Education 2010

Indicator 47

Price of Attending an Undergraduate Institution

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2010*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2010*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010028>) or contact ED Pubs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Price of Attending an Undergraduate Institution

For full-time, full-year, dependent undergraduates, the total price of education was higher in 2007–08 than in 1999–2000 at all institutions.

The total price of attending a postsecondary institution (also called “the student budget”) includes tuition and fees, books and materials, and an allowance for living expenses. In 2007–08, the average total price, in constant 2008–09 dollars, of attendance for full-time, full-year, dependent students was \$12,000 at public 2-year institutions, \$19,100 at public 4-year institutions, \$37,000 at private not-for-profit 4-year institutions, and \$22,400 at private for-profit less-than-4-year institutions (see table A-47-1). The average total price of attendance for students at each of the four major types of institutions was higher in 2007–08 than in 1999–2000.

Many students and their families do not pay the full price of attendance; they receive financial aid to help cover their expenses. The primary types of aid are grants (which do not have to be repaid) and loans (which must be repaid). Grants (including scholarships) may be awarded on the basis of financial need, merit, or both, and may include tuition aid from employers. The loan amounts reported in this indicator include student borrowing through federal, state, institutional, and alternative (private) loan programs, as well as loans taken out by parents through the federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) program. When adjusted for inflation, the average amount borrowed by students at each of the four major types of institutions was higher in 2007–08 than in 1999–2000. The average grant amounts for students at public 2- and 4-year institutions and private not-for-profit 4-year institutions were higher in 2007–08 than in 1999–2000, when adjusted to 2008–09 dollars (see table A-47-1).

The net price is an estimate of the cash outlay, including loans, that students and their families need to pay in a given year to cover educational expenses. It is calculated here as the total price of attendance minus grants (which decrease the price). The net price for full-time, full-year, dependent undergraduates at all four major types of institutions was higher in 2007–08 than in 1999–2000. After adjusting for inflation, the net price of attendance was higher in 2007–08 than in 2003–04 for students at public 2- and 4-year institutions, as well as for students at private not-for-profit 4-year institutions.

The net price of sending a student to a postsecondary institution (of any type) was higher in 2007–08 than in 1999–2000 for families at all income levels, with the exception of low-income students at public 2-year institutions and middle- and high-income students at private for-profit less than 4-year institutions (see table A-47-2). For middle-income students at public 2- and 4-year institutions and private not-for-profit 4-year institutions, the net price was significantly higher in 2007–08 than in 2003–04; this was also true for high-income students at public 2- and 4-year institutions.



For more information: *Tables A-47-1 and A-47-2; Indicator 46*

Glossary: *Consumer Price Index (CPI), Four-year postsecondary institution, Private institution, Public institution, Two-year postsecondary institution*

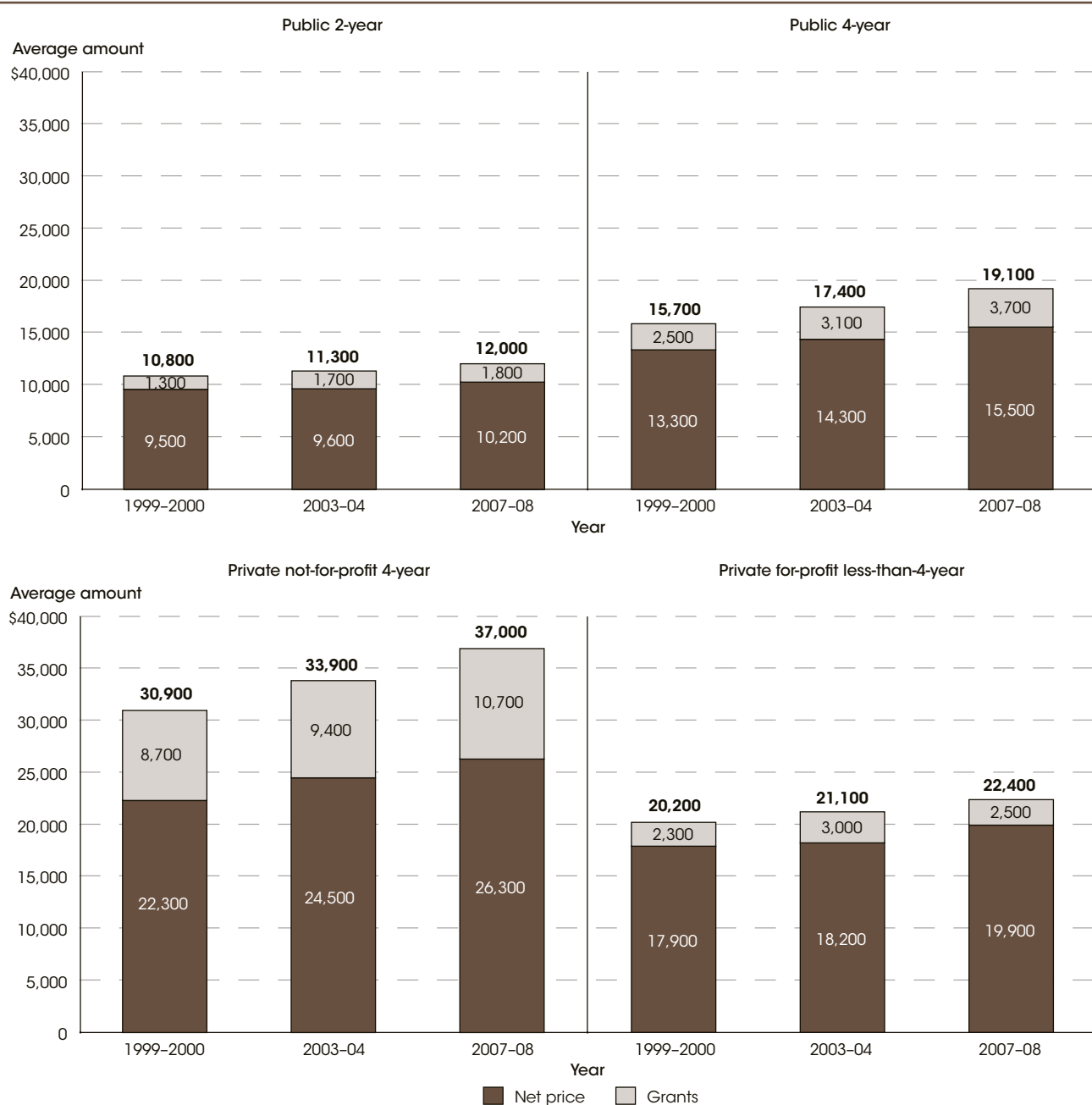
Technical Notes

Full time refers to students who attended full time (as defined by the institution) for the full year (at least 9 months). Information on the use of tax credits by individual families is not available and therefore could not be taken into account in calculating net price. Averages were computed for all students, including those who did not receive financial aid. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Data were adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

(CPI-U) to constant 2008–09 dollars. For more information on the CPI-U, see *supplemental note 10*. Estimates exclude students who were not U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who were therefore ineligible for federal student aid, students who attended more than one institution in a year due to the difficulty matching information on price and aid, and students who attended private for-profit 4-year institutions.

Figure 47-1. Average total price, grants, and net price for full-time, full-year dependent undergraduates, by type of institution: Academic years 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08

[In constant 2008–09 dollars]



NOTE: Full time refers to students who attended full time (as defined by the institution) for the full year (at least 9 months). Net price is an estimate of the cash outlay that students and their families need to make in a given year to cover educational expenses. It is calculated here as the total price of attendance, including loans, minus grants. Information on the use of tax credits by individual families is not available and therefore could not be taken into account in calculating net price. Averages were computed for all students, including those who did not receive financial aid. Data were adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to constant 2008–09 dollars. For more information on the CPI-U, see *supplemental note 10*. Estimates exclude students who were not U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who were therefore ineligible for federal student aid, students who attended more than one institution in a year due to the difficulty of matching information on price and aid, and students who attended private for-profit 4-year institutions.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:2000, NPSAS:04, and NPSAS:08).

Price of Attending a Postsecondary Institution

Table A-47-1. Average total price of attendance, loans, grants, and net price for full-time, full-year dependent undergraduates, by type of institution: Academic years 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08
[In constant 2008–09 dollars]

Type of institution	1999–2000	2003–04	2007–08
Public 2-year			
Total	\$10,800	\$11,300	\$12,000
Grants	1,300	1,700	1,800
Net price	9,500	9,600	10,200
Loans	600	600	900
Public 4-year			
Total	15,700	17,400	19,100
Grants	2,500	3,100	3,700
Net price	13,300	14,300	15,500
Loans	3,100	3,700	4,500
Private not-for-profit 4-year			
Total	30,900	33,900	37,000
Grants	8,700	9,400	10,700
Net price	22,300	24,500	26,300
Loans	6,100	6,900	8,400
Private for-profit less-than-4-year			
Total	20,200	21,100	22,400
Grants	2,300	3,000	2,500
Net price	17,900	18,200	19,900
Loans	6,800	7,600	8,900

NOTE: *Full time* refers to students who attended full time (as defined by the institution) for the full year (at least 9 months). *Net price* is an estimate of the cash outlay that students and their families need to make in a given year to cover educational expenses. It is calculated here as the total price of attendance, including loans, minus grants. Information on the use of tax credits by individual families is not available and therefore could not be taken into account in calculating net price. Averages were computed for all students, including those who did not receive financial aid. Data were adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to constant 2008–09 dollars. For more information on the CPI-U, see *supplemental note 10*. Estimates exclude students who were not U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who were therefore ineligible for federal student aid, students who attended more than one institution in a year due to the difficulty of matching information on price and aid, and students who attended private for-profit 4-year institutions. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:2000, NPSAS:04, and NPSAS:08).

Table A-47-2. Average net price for full-time, full-year dependent students after grants and loans, by type of institution and family income: Academic years 1999–2000, 2003–2004, and 2007–2008

[In constant 2008–09 dollars]

Type of institution and family income	1999–2000	2003–04	2007–08
Public 2-year			
Total	\$9,500	\$9,600	\$10,200
Low income	7,600	7,500	7,800
Lower middle income	10,000	9,900	10,600
Upper middle income	10,400	10,800	11,800
High income	10,600	11,000	12,000
Public 4-year			
Total	13,300	14,300	15,500
Low income	9,800	10,200	10,300
Lower middle income	12,800	13,900	14,400
Upper middle income	14,500	15,500	16,900
High income	15,400	17,000	18,600
Private not-for-profit 4-year			
Total	22,300	24,500	26,300
Low income	15,000	18,000	18,100
Lower middle income	20,200	21,500	22,900
Upper middle income	22,300	24,600	26,400
High income	28,200	30,800	32,200
Private for-profit less-than-4-year			
Total	17,900	18,200	19,900
Low income	14,900	15,600	17,700
Lower middle income	19,700	19,300	21,100
Upper middle income	21,200	20,500	23,700
High income	23,300	22,300	24,000

NOTE: *Full time* refers to students who attended full time (as defined by the institution) for the full year (at least 9 months). *Net price* is an estimate of the cash outlay that students and their families need to make in a given year to cover educational expenses. It is calculated here as the total price of attendance, including loans, minus grants. Information on the use of tax credits by individual families is not available and therefore could not be taken into account in calculating net price. Averages were computed for all students, including those who did not receive financial aid. Data were adjusted by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to constant 2008–09 dollars. For more information on the CPI-U, see *supplemental note 10*. Estimates exclude students who were not U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who were therefore ineligible for federal student aid, students who attended more than one institution in a year due to the difficulty of matching information on price and aid, and students who attended private for-profit 4-year institutions. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. The cutoff points for low, lower middle, upper middle, and high income were obtained by identifying the incomes at the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:2000, NPSAS:04, and NPSAS:08).

Price of Attending a Postsecondary Institution

Table S-47-1. Standard errors for the average total price of attendance, loans, grants, and net price for full-time, full-year dependent undergraduates, by type of institution: Academic years 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08

[In constant 2008–09 dollars]			
Type of institution	1999–2000	2003–04	2007–08
Public 2-year			
Total	\$140	\$190	\$110
Grants	140	70	40
Net price	240	190	110
Loans	60	50	40
Public 4-year			
Total	130	130	80
Grants	40	50	70
Net price	120	130	90
Loans	50	70	90
Private not-for-profit 4-year			
Total	460	430	280
Grants	200	390	230
Net price	410	430	310
Loans	200	170	180
Private for-profit less-than-4-year			
Total	500	700	770
Grants	130	330	150
Net price	520	650	780
Loans	590	640	450

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:2000, NPSAS:04, and NPSAS:08).

Table S-47-2. Standard errors for the average net price for full-time, full-year dependent students after grants and loans, by type of institution and family income: Academic years 1999–2000, 2003–2004, and 2007–2008

[In constant 2008–09 dollars]

Type of institution and family income	1999–2000	2003–04	2007–08
Public 2-year			
Total	\$240	\$190	\$110
Low income	350	290	130
Lower middle income	210	200	190
Upper middle income	320	260	200
High income	260	190	250
Public 4-year			
Total	120	130	90
Low income	150	190	140
Lower middle income	160	190	140
Upper middle income	140	170	120
High income	170	160	130
Private not-for-profit 4-year			
Total	410	430	310
Low income	320	590	500
Lower middle income	450	490	450
Upper middle income	390	480	440
High income	540	610	510
Private for-profit less-than-4-year			
Total	520	650	780
Low income	690	720	900
Lower middle income	790	790	1,120
Upper middle income	600	750	1,480
High income	890	1,230	1,280

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1999–2000, 2003–04, and 2007–08 National Postsecondary Student Aid Studies (NPSAS:2000, NPSAS:04, and NPSAS:08).